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CLAIMS

We claim:

5  1. A secure system for configuring remote networked devices and gateway servers, comprising:
an administration machine comprising a device configured to create, update and maintain a collection of configuration data, the administration machine further comprising a storage device configured to store the configuration data, the administration machine further comprising a process to retrieve the configuration data from the storage device, compress and encrypt the configuration data to produce an encrypted file, the administration machine further comprising a network interface configured to interface with a network and transmit the encrypted file;
10 a remote email server configured to receive the encrypted file from the administration machine and store the encrypted file; and
a gateway server configured to retrieve the encrypted file from the email server, the gateway server comprising a network interface configured to receive the encrypted file, the gateway server further comprising a storage device to store the encrypted file, the gateway server further comprising a process to retrieve the encrypted file from the storage device and decrypt the encrypted file to produce decrypted configuration data and reconfigure the gateway server according to the configuration data.

20 2. A secure system for communicating with devices, comprising:
a central server having at least one file; and
at least one initialized device configured to retrieve the file from the central server in response to a polling of the central server by the at least one initialized device.

25 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the central server is a mail server.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the mail server is an accessible email server.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one file includes configuration data.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the at least one initialized device is further configured to reconfigure system parameters of the at least one device according to the configuration data.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one initialized device is a gateway server.

8. The system of claim 7, further comprising a local area network (LAN) connected to the gateway server.

9. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include host configuration.

10. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include device setup configuration.

11. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include domain name system (DNS) management configuration.

12. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include firewall object configuration.

13. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include firewall rule configuration.

14. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include firewall status configuration.

15. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include email setup configuration.

16. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include user setup configuration.

17. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include group setup configuration.

18. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include file share configuration.

19. The gateway server of claim 7, wherein the system parameters include device operating statistics configuration.

20. The system of claim 5, wherein the configuration data is an encrypted file.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one initialized device is further configured to decrypt and authenticate the encrypted file.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one initialized device further comprises:

a network interface configured to receive the encrypted file;

a storage device configured to store the encrypted file; and

a processor configured to retrieve the encrypted file from the storage device and decrypt the encrypted file to produce decrypted configuration data.

23. The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one initialized device is a networked

device or gateway server.

24. The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one initialized device is an automatic teller machine.

25. The system of claim 2, wherein the polling of the central server is done on a predetermined, random or requested schedule.

26. The system of claim 2, wherein the polling of the central server is done periodically.

27. The system of claim 2, further comprising an administration machine configured to create the at least one file and securely transmit the at least one file to the central server.

28. The system of claim 27, further comprising a local area network (LAN), WAN, Internet or modem connected to the administration machine.

29. The system of claim 27, wherein the administration machine further comprises:
a firewall configured to prevent unauthorized access to the administration machine;
a network interface configured to interface the administration machine with a network;
an input device configured to receive user instructions to edit at least one file;
a storage device configured to store the at least one file; and
a processor configured to retrieve the at least one file from the storage device and encrypt the at least one file, the processor further configured to transmit the encrypted file.

30. The system of claim 28, wherein the administration machine further comprises a remote configuration port configured to receive at least one file from a workstation on the local area network (LAN).

31. A method for securely configuring remote networked devices, comprising the steps of:
retrieving configuration data from a staging platform; and
reconfiguring a networked device according to the configuration data in response to the
retrieving step.

32. The method of claim 31 further comprising the steps of:

creating a configuration database;

encrypting data from the configuration database to produce an encrypted file;

transmitting the encrypted file; and

storing the encrypted file on a central server.

33. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of polling a central server.

34. The method of claim 31 further comprising the step of notifying an administration machine in response to the reconfiguring step.

35. The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of decrypting the encrypted file to produce decrypted configuration data.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the reconfiguring step is further in response to the decrypting step.

37. The method of claim 32, wherein the retrieving step is responsive to a polling of a central server.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the polling is done on a predetermined schedule.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein the polling is done periodically.

40. The method of claim 37, wherein the networked device is a gateway server.

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41. A system for securely configuring remote networked devices, comprising:
means for retrieving configuration data; and
means for reconfiguring a networked device according to the configuration data.

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42. The system of claim 41 further comprising:
means for creating a configuration database;
means for encrypting data from the configuration database to produce an encrypted file;
means for transmitting the encrypted file; and
means for receiving and storing the encrypted file.

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43. The system of claim 41, further comprising means for notifying an administration machine of a reconfiguration of system parameters.

44. The system of claim 42, further comprising means for decrypting the encrypted file to produce decrypted configuration data.

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45. The system of claim 41, further comprising means for polling a central server.

46. The system of claim 41, further comprising means for polling a central server at a predetermined schedule.

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47. The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for periodically polling a central server.

48. The system of claim 45, wherein the retrieving step is responsive to the polling step.

49. The system of claim 46, wherein the retrieving step is responsive to the polling step.

50. The system of claim 47, wherein the retrieving step is responsive to the polling step.

51. The system of claim 41, wherein the networked device is a gateway server.